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HARMAN STATEMENT ON THWARTED TERRORIST PLOT

Continues to receive briefings, lauds well coordinated, integrated US effort

WASHINGTON D.C. -- Rep. Jane Harman (D-Venice), Ranking Member on the House Intelligence Committee and a member of the Homeland Security Committee, released the following statement:

“US intelligence agencies and our British partners have foiled a large part of a significant terror plot against US airliners destined for our shores. While it’s become fashionable to criticize our liaison partnerships, this joint operation demonstrates how vital those partnerships are in keeping us safe.

I was briefed in advance about the enormously ambitious plot. I am in ongoing contact with senior CIA officials, and members of the House Intelligence committee are receiving current information and asking tough questions to ensure no stone is left unturned.

US law enforcement, homeland security and intelligence professionals are to be commended for excellent work. They are hands-on and well coordinated. Clearly much progress has been made in integrating our efforts.

The ingredients for the terrorists’ weapons may not have been detectable by current airport screening technology. TSA has made progress, including enhanced screening for explosives, but we need to do much more.

I agree with Chairman Hoekstra that “terrorism is not a vague, distant threat but a reality we must face everyday.” This demonstrates the importance of a legislative framework around the new tools needed to fight this elusive and sophisticated foe. Without this framework, we risk eroding our Constitution and civil liberties – exactly as the terrorists wish.”